

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

Welcome!

The holidays have arrived and what a wonderful time to spend with family and friends! As you plan your break, I wanted to share this newsletter which highlights upcoming events and ways to get and stay involved throughout the year. I will also be posting updates when available to my FB page so I encourage you to ["Like" me](#) to stay informed or register for updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#).

Know of any upcoming events you'd like to see highlighted here? Please email me the details to cbball@howardcountymd.gov.

If you are not already registered to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

January 2015 Edition

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Happy Holidays!

While you enjoy a wonderful holiday with family and friends.... Howard County Government announces the following closings:

Government Offices Closed – December 25-January 2

HCPSS Schools/Offices Closed – December 24-January 2

Senior Centers Closed – December 25-January 2

County Parks OPEN BUT NOT STAFFED – Thurs, December 25; Open – Friday, December 26 through Fri, January 2

Historic Sites Closed – December 25 thru January 2

Meadowbrook Closed – December 24 (Closing at 12pm), December 25, December 28 & Thurs, January 1. OPEN ONLY FOR

Athletic Complex PERMITTED EVENTS – December 26, 27, 29-31 and Fri, January 2

Trash/Recycling Collection No pickup December 25 or January 1; Normal scheduled pick-up December 24 & 31 Slide schedule in effect December 26 & 27 and January 2 & 3

Landfill Closed – December 25 & January 1; Open Limited Hours, 8am-2pm – December 24; Open Regular Hours, 8am-4pm December 26-27, 29-31 and January 2-3

Courts Closed – December 25 & 26 and January 1 & 2; Open – Thurs, December 24 & 31

Animal Shelter Closed – December 25-27 and January 1; Open – December 24, 29-31 and January 2 & Tues, December 31

CMRT/Hwd Transit No Service – December 25 & January 1; Regular Services – December 24, 26-31 and January 2

For a complete list of openings and closings, including a link to our "slide schedule," click [here](#) or call 410-313-6444. For Howard Transit, call 800-270-9553. The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24hrs/day, 7 days/wk. For emergencies, call 9-1-1; for non-emergencies, please call 410-313-2200. County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **January 5**.



Rebuilding Together Howard County Offers FREE Home Repairs!

Volunteers from Rebuilding Together Howard County work to repair homes for low-income homeowners and their families. All types of FREE repairs are provided to include plumbing, electrical, carpentry, new appliance installation, painting, and the list goes on! A simple application is all you need to apply. Call 410-381-3338 or go [online](#) to get your application. Since 1992, over 700 Howard County homes have been repaired free of charge. The deadline to apply is **December 31, 2014**.

County's MIHU Now Accepting Applications – Apply Today!!



Looking for affordable housing in Howard County? Howard County Housing will begin accepting applications for the January open enrollment period for the County's Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program on **January 5, 2014**. The enrollment period ends **January 31st**. This program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income and at reduced sale prices and rents to income eligible families.

For more info, contact Howard County Housing's Homeownership Division at 410-313-6318 and select option 4 or visit their MIHU [website](#).

Merry Mulch Your Holiday Trees!

As the holiday nears, HC Government wants to remind residents to keep your tree out of the landfill through a variety of FREE Christmas tree recycling options are available through the County's Merry Mulch program. All collected trees are delivered to a compost facility and recycled into compost and mulch and will begin **Friday, December 26** through **Friday, January 16**. Christmas trees may also be recycled 7 days/week, 7:30am-5pm, at:

Clarksville:	Kendall Hardware, 12260 Route 108 and River Hill Garden Center, 12165 Route 108
Columbia:	Cedar Lane Park, 5081 Cedar Lane and Grandfather's Garden Center, 5320 Phelps Luck Drive
Elkridge:	Rockburn Park, 5400 Landing Road
Ellicott City:	Small Circuit Court parking lot on upper Court House Drive (past Ellicott Mills Drive, on the right)
Highland:	Schooley Mill Park, 12975 Hall Shop Road
Marriottsville:	Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area, 2350 Marriottsville Road (M-Sat 8-4pm)
Savage:	Savage Park, 8400 Fair Street
Woodbine:	Western Regional Park, 14800 Carrs Mill Road

Residents with curbside yard trim collection may set their trees out on their collection day through **January 16**. Trees will not be picked up on trash collection days. All decorations, including tinsel, garland, ornaments, lights, tree stands, plastic bags, etc. must be removed. Trees must also be cut into less than four foot lengths and tied; they do not need to be bagged. Each bundle must weigh less than 40lbs.

After January 17, residents may continue to bring their Christmas trees to the Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area – open M-Sat 8am-4pm. Please, no plastic bags. After January 17, trees will be collected as trash if put out on trash day. Artificial Christmas trees and wreaths with metal components can be recycled year-round in the scrap metal area at the Alpha Ridge Landfill Residents' Convenience Area. For more info, click [here](#).



The [Symphony of Lights](#) is a spectacular display of 70 larger-than-life, animated and stationary light creations. It is a treasured community tradition and a “must-see” during the holiday season. Driving through, enjoy a beautiful 20-30 minute display of holiday light creations, illuminated by a fantasy of color, design & animation. Delightful for all ages!

This spectacular event runs through **Sunday, January 4, 2015**. Open 6 days/week, Wed-Mon 6-10pm including holidays. CLOSED on Tuesdays & December 31st for Midnight at 7 event. Cost is \$20/car (up to 8 seats).

Howard County Restaurant Weeks

Celebrate culinary culture in Howard County during our annual Restaurant Weeks! Beginning **January 19, 2015** through **February 2, 2015**, residents can visit local restaurants and sample house specialties. For details on participating locations, select menus and much more, go [online](#).

17th Annual Holiday Train Display!



The Department will hold its 17th annual holiday train display through **January 4** (closed December 25). **Wed-Fri 6:30-8:30pm** and **Sat-Sun 11am-8:30pm** at the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department, Station #2, 4150 Montgomery Rd in Ellicott City. Admission is FREE but donations are welcome. New, unwrapped toys for needy children are being collected Dec 6-22 and can be dropped off at the Train Garden or any HC Fire Station. To schedule a group tour, call **410-313-2036**. OPEN Christmas Eve 11am-4pm. CLOSED Christmas Day; OPEN New Year's Eve and Day 11am-8:30pm.

CA's Summer Sister Cities HS Exchange Program!



Interested in learning about CA's annual summer Sister Cities High School Exchange program? An information session will be held **Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 7pm** at **CA Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle** in Columbia. Applicants must be HS students residing in Howard County and must have completed level 3 of French or Spanish by the end of the current academic year or have equivalent language fluency.

The program fee is \$700/Columbia residents and \$850/non-Columbia residents, excluding airfare. Application deadline is **February 20, 2015**. To apply, visit CA's [website](#) and for more info, call **410-715-3162** or email international@columbiaassociation.org.

Civility in Sports Poster Contest!

Students are invited to design a poster illustrating the recent 2014 Choose Civility Symposium theme, Civility in Sports. Use your imagination, creativity and artistic talent to show others why it's important to be a good sport. Start by asking yourself: What does it mean to be a good sport? Why is it important? How does the way people act during sports events affect you, your family, and your friends? Now design a poster with a message that will encourage others to choose civility in sports!

Groups or individual students in K-12 who live or attend school in Howard County are invited to submit entries. Entries are accepted **January 5-March 1, 2015**. There will be awards for the top winners. For details, go [online](#) or call 410-730-0075 or email monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org



Leadership U – Accepting Applications for Class of 2015!

Calling all students - Leadership U is open to high school sophomores (or equivalents who are home-schooled) who live in Howard County. Students may attend public or private school, or be home-schooled. Students must have a desire to learn about their community and a willingness to volunteer. LU is a great way to meet new people from different schools who share similar interests in knowing more about their community, and who want to make a positive impact.

Those interested are invited to attend a FREE information session to learn more: **Wednesday, January 28** (Central Library); **Monday, February 9** (Miller Library); and **Tuesday, February 24** (Central Library). All sessions are 7-8pm. Application deadline is **March 12, 2015**. For more details, go [online](#).

ACA Open Enrollment Has Begun!

Residents who qualify for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have until **February 15, 2015** to apply or re-enroll. Go [online](#) to create an account or call Maryland's Connection's Consumer Support Center at 1-855-642-8572.

Know your options. Call 410-313-7392 or email ship@howardcountymd.gov to register or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/SHIP for a complete schedule of enrollment events.

Evening in the Stacks!



You are cordially invited for a sparkling evening as the Howard County Library System celebrates 75 years of excellence in education! Enjoy live music, an online advance auction and silent auction on site, cocktails and dancing with your friends and neighbors. This event will be held **Saturday, February 28, 2015 7-11pm** at the Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center, 9421 Frederick Rd in Ellicott City. Tickets are \$125 (before January 31), \$140 beginning February 1st.

Cocktail attire and black tie optional. Additional details available [online](#).

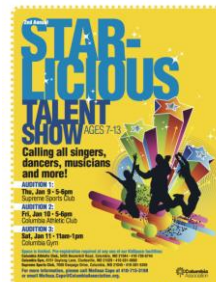
Downtown Columbia Arts & Culture Commission Accepting 2014 Grant Applications!

The Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission has begun accepting 2015 grants applications! Grants are available to non-for-profit arts and cultural organizations that present or produce in Downtown Columbia, are for project support only and are expected to support activities in the fiscal year they're awarded. Online grant applications will remain open until the grantmaking budget for the year has been exhausted and all applications will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Commission's Board of Directors. For more details or if you have questions, email ColumbiaMDarts@gmail.com or go [online](#).

CA's Starlicious Talent Show!

The best young talents in Howard County are invited to take stage and be showcased at Columbia Association's (CA) [3rd annual Starlicious Talent Show!](#) Singers dancers, musicians and other performers between the ages of 7 and 13 can audition on one of two dates: **Thursday, January 8th 6-7pm** and **Wednesday, January 14th 6-7pm** both at **Columbia Gym, 6151 Daylong Lane** in the River Hill Village Center. Auditions are open to the general public; however, space is limited so performers are strongly encouraged to pre-register for an audition date/time by calling 410-715-3169 or emailing Mellisa.Capo@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Finalists move on to the Starlicious Talent Show **Friday, February 6th 6-9pm**. It will be a night with and for the stars with several special features such as a halftime show, "Hollywood swag bag" giveaways, door prizes, a Fan Club merchandise booth, a VIP booth, a red carpet photo booth and food and beverages available for purchase. Tickets to the finale are \$10/adults, \$5/kids or \$25/family of four.



Holiday Guide to Giving!

Looking for a way to give back this holiday season as a volunteer or as a donor? Look no further than the **Holiday Guide to Giving 2014**, featuring the holiday needs of 30+ local nonprofit agencies! Before you, your family or your business begin collecting items, check the guide to see what is on the wish lists of local agencies! Opportunities range from raking leaves, wrapping presents, delivering meals and holiday visits to donating food, gifts, clothing and gift cards.



Further Your Education – Apply to HCC Today!



Looking to further your education? Howard Community College invites you to register for winter and spring classes! View the schedule of classes for both credit and noncredit classes and act fast, winter session begins **Friday, January 2, 2015** and spring session starts **Monday, January 26, 2015**.

Don't let the cost of college stand in your way! Apply now for the new, need-based [Pathway Scholarship](#). Created exclusively for Howard County residents, the Pathway Scholarship was made possible by the generosity of the County Government. The steps to apply are easy: 1. Become a Howard County resident; 2. Apply to or currently attend HCC; and 3. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Spotlight on Village Events!

Oakland Mills 2015 Upcoming Events:

Channel Your Inner Geezer: Don't Get Mad, Get to Work

Are you looking for a career change, but don't know where to begin? "Channel Your Inner Geezer: Don't Get Mad, Get to Work", a 4 part workshop will get you started. Janet Ruck, Certified Job and Career Transition Coach, will be instructing the workshop for individuals 50 and older. The 4 sessions will be as follows and for the most successful experience, please plan on attending all 4 workshops:

January 14, 2015, 10am to noon – Job Searching

January 21, 2015, 10am to noon – Networking, Your Resume and Social Media

January 28, 2015, 10am to noon – Interview Do's and Don'ts

February 4, 2015, 10am to noon – Putting it all together and Moving Forward

All workshops will take place at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place. They are FREE, but registration is required. Please call **410-730-4610** or email events@oaklandmills.org for more information or to register.

FREE Community Clothing Drive Distribution – Saturday, January 17th 9am-2pm and Sunday, January 18th 11am-2:30pm.

Do you know someone who is in need? The CA YTC Teen Outreach Committee will be holding their annual Clothing event at The Barn. Everything (shoes,, hats, coats, shirts, pants, purses, socks etc.) for the entire family is FREE!



Long Reach 2015 Upcoming Events:

Animal Shelter Extravaganza – Friday, February 6th 11am-2pm

Schools are closed, so enjoy the afternoon with family and friends making pet toys for the animals at the Howard County Animal Control & Adoption Center. A Howard County Control Officer will also be on-site with some of the animals available for adoption. For more info, call 410-730-8113.

Columbia Art Center School's Out Artsy Fun Day

When Howard County public schools are out, come to the Columbia Art Center for an amazing day of creative fun! Go home with an exciting project every day. Full day, 7:30-5:30pm, \$50/child for grades 1-8. To register call 410-730-0075 or email ColumbiaArtCenter@ColumbiaAssociation.org

My Spanish Academy

My Spanish Academy is offering a fun way to learn Spanish from a native Spanish speaker & experienced teacher. Songs, crafts, dance, music & more! For ages 2-12 – 50 or 75 minute classes available Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm or Tuesday & Thursdays 6:30pm-7:20pm.

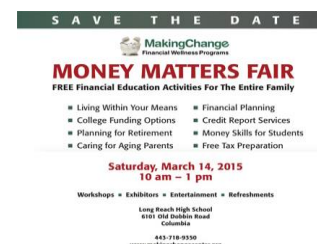
Support the Silas Craft Collegians Program!



The Howard Community College Educational Foundation and the Hunan Manor Restaurant cordially invite you to our annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. The dinner buffet will be served continuously on **Monday, March 9th from 5-8pm** at the Hunan Manor Restaurant in Columbia. Tickets are \$45/person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more information or to [purchase tickets](#), call the HCC development office at **443-518-1970**.

Money Matters Fair!

MakingChange will host the Money Matters Fair on **Saturday, March 14, 2015**, from 10am-1pm at Long Reach High School. Free activities for the entire family will focus on such issues as living within your means, college funding options, preparing for retirement and caring for aging parents. Activities for children ages 12-18 and their parents will include an interactive financial simulation designed to show how career, education and spending choices impact success. More information is available [online](#).



What to Know if You See Snow?

Now that the weather is changing, here are some helpful hints and reminders courtesy of Howard County's Department of Public Works:

Getting Plowed In

Tired of getting snowed in by the snow plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb – about the length of a parking space – ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway.

Cars Parked on Public Streets

Parked cars are one of the biggest challenges of our snow crews. County residential streets are plowed one time per snowstorm. Once the county crews clear the snow off your street, they will not return to plow your street a second time. Please park your cars in driveways and off public streets so plows can clear as much snow as possible.

Cars Parked in Cul-de-Sacs

County truck drivers cannot safely push the snow in cul-de-sacs where cars are parked. Rather than risk damaging county or private vehicles, the driver will leave and come back later after he finishes the rest of his route.

Guard Against Flooding

Uncover and clear area around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding. After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported to the Bureau of Utilities at 410-313-4900, which is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Clearing Your Sidewalks

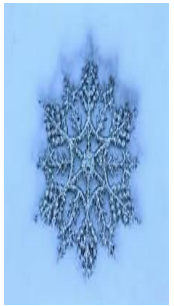
"It is the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen." (Howard County Code, Section 18.402(h). If you are willing to help remove snow for seniors or physically disabled individuals in your neighborhood, please call the Office on Aging – Maryland Access Point at 410-313-5980 to volunteer for the Snow Patrol Program. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope. If you need assistance with snow removal and are 60 or older, or younger than 60 with a physical disability, and a resident of Howard County, you may register as a Snow Patrol client. New clients are put on a waiting list and are contacted only if a Snow Patrol volunteer in his/her area becomes available. To register as a client, call 410-313-5980.

Did It Snow On...

"Trash" Day? If it snows on your trash day, put your trash out for collection as usual – before 6am. If trash collection has been canceled for the day, the trash contractors will pick up trash the next work day if roads are passable.

"Recycling" Day? If it snows on your Recycling day, and recycling has been canceled for the day, recycled will be picked up the following week. To find out if trash or recycling collections were canceled for the day, call 410-313-SORT (7678).

Please be patient...



2015 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award!

Attention graduating seniors... Are you looking for a way to make college affordable? Columbia Association is now accepting application for the 2015 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award. Up to six \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors from local high schools who have shown a history of providing community service to benefit Columbia residents and those in the Columbia area.

Students must live on CA-assessed property, or have a parent/guardian who works full-time on CA-assessed property. Applicants must be graduating in May/June 2015 from an accredited public, private or parochial high school and need to have a minimum of a "C" cumulative grade point average (2.0). Columbia Association employees, members of Board of Directors or family members of employees or members of the Board of Directors are not eligible to receive the award.

Applications are available [online](#). Completed applications must be submitted by **March 15, 2015**. For more information, call **410-715-3161** or email SpiritofColumbia@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Beware of Scams During Open Enrollment Season!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through Affordable Care Act (ACA) health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that may crop up during open enrollment seasons. Open enrollment for the ACA health exchange enrollment period ends **February 15, 2015**.

Last year, the Department's Office on Aging was alerted to insurance representatives who made illegal door-to-door "cold calls" to Medicare recipients, pitching supplemental insurance that did not meet their needs. Meanwhile, the Office of Consumer Affairs learned that misleading information about the ACA enrollment period and the penalties for failing to enroll were used to create a sense of urgency so that consumers would make hasty and costly decisions. Many other types of scams were reported in other areas of Maryland and around the United States. This year, the Office on Aging and the Office of Consumer Affairs have joined forces to help consumers identify and avoid health insurance scams. "Avoiding Medicare and Health Insurance Scams during Open Enrollment" provides guidance on what to look out for and how to stay safe from the most common scams. The tip sheet is available [online](#).

Consumers looking for free, confidential and unbiased Medicare information can contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at 410-313-7392 or by e-mailing ship@howardcountymd.gov. Consumers who receive suspicious offers of help to enroll in the exchanges can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 or by e-mail at consumer@howardcountymd.gov.

Aging in Place Home Repair Funding!

Since 2005, Columbia Association and the Howard County Office on Aging have partnered to help older adults age in place, providing financial assistance to qualified CA homeowners who cannot otherwise pay for accessibility or repair expenses for their homes. For more information, please see the full news release on CA's website, <http://bit.ly/1iiiVAp>

Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest **November 2014** edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2014-2015

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed [online](#). For more details, call 410-313-1675.

Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	February 4
David Force Park	
Bow & Shotgun	January 28
High Ridge Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 14
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	January 8 and 22; February 5 and 19
Schooley Mill Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 7, 15, 21 and 29
West Friendship Park (Wounded Soldiers Hunt)	
Bow & Shotgun	February 11
Wincopin Trail	
Bow Hunting	February 12

SHARPSHOOTING

Alpha Ridge Landfill and Park	March 9
Belmont Park	February 26 and March 5
Blandair Park	January 12 and February 23
Daniel's Mill Overlook	January 26 and February 9
Fulton South Park	February 2 & 17
Governor's Run Open Space	January 26 & February 9
Gray Rock Farms Open Space	January 12 & February 23
Hollifield Farm	January 26 and February 9
Meadowbrook Park	December 22
Mt Hebron Open Space	January 26 and February 9
River's Edge Open Space	January 5 and March 2
Robinson Nature Center	January 5 and March 2
Rockburn Branch Park	February 26 and March 5
Savage Park	February 2 & 17
Timbers at Troy Golf Course	February 26 and March 5
Worthington Park	December 22

Free Financial Coaching!

A new program, MyBudgetCoach, was launched in Howard County by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families and individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

Contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at petakl@makingchangecenter.org if you are interested in participating in the program. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit www.makingchangecenter.org.



Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the **Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth. I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

4H Club: For youth grades 3+. Meets **2nd Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

Art Attack: Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1st and 2nd Mondays**. Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

Columbia Teen Center **410-992-3726**

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

Voices For Change <http://hcv4c.org/> or email MMekelburg7@verizon.net

Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call **410-730-6030**.

Scholarships For Students!

As an educator, I know the value and importance of education. I also know that many families often struggle with financing the dream. Below is a sample of scholarships available. I encourage your students to apply early.

GE – Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program

Deadline: January 8, 2015; **Award:** \$10,000 renewable for up to \$40,000

Description: For HS seniors with leadership, drive, integrity and citizenship who embody the characteristics of President Ronald Reagan in the community, in the work place and at home. Strong academic performance and financial need are required. Apply online at www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships



Towson University – Fischer Scholarship Program

Deadline: February 1, 2015; **Award:** Full cost of in-state tuition and fees. Renewable for up to 4 years.

Description: The Jess & Mildred Fisher College of Science & Math offers 2 scholarships for students committed to a major in a program housed in the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics. Complete application form (available [online](#)), personal statement, submit HS transcript, SAT/ACT scores and two letters of recommendation.

Roanoke College Scholars Program

Deadline: 1/5/15 for February; **Award:** \$190,000 over four years

Description: Be a prospective college freshman seeking first-time fall enrollment. You must also be accepted to the College prior to the competition.

Students with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in a rigorous academic curriculum should consider applying for the Scholars Program

Specific Focus: Roanoke College (www.roanoke.edu/scholars)

National Co-op Scholarship Program

Deadline: 2/15/15; **Award:** Varies

Description: Encourages minority and female students as well as students interested in STEM to apply for this merit co-op scholarship. 3.5 or better GPA, completed application and a 200 word essay. Application to a WACE Partner Institution: Clarkson Univ., Drexel Univ., Johnson & Wales Univ., Kettering Univ., Merrimack College, Rochester Institute of Tech., SUNY Oswego, Univ. of Cincinnati, Univ. of Mass. Lowell, Univ. of Toledo, Wentworth Institute of Tech. Complete application online. Early applications highly encouraged.

Specific focus: WACE Partner Institutions. Minority, female, STEM.

Contact: www.waceinc.org, Marty Ford at marty_ford@uml.edu

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

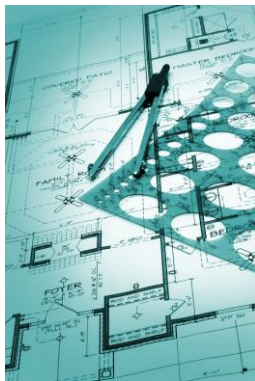
To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services. They provide programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006 or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!



HC Housing is accepting applications for the MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications are available at Housing's office in the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 3rd floor in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and not eligible.

For more information, contact Deborah Gillen at 410-313-3508 DGillen@howardcountymd.gov.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available [online](#).
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the [SMART Program initiative](#).
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or go [online](#).

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at **410-884-RIDE (7433)** or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Online-Form-to-Report-Fraud-Waste-and-Abuse>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A calendar of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
[District 2](#)
[Email Me](#)
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved"
~ **Mattie Stepanek**